



A Balanced Approach to Experiential Education

Materials Needed:

- *Service-Learning: A Balanced Approach to Experiential Education* by Andrew Furco. This article can also be found at: http://www.urmia.org/library/docs/regional/2008_northeast/Service_Learning_Balanced_Approach.pdf
- Paper and pens

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will have a better understanding of key service-learning concepts and definitions.
2. Students will begin to differentiate between service-learning and other types of service.
3. Students will map their own service experiences in order to better understand their personal development and how it relates to their service-learning class.

Overview:

1. Read *Service-Learning: A Balanced Approach to Experiential Education*
2. Ask the students to pay attention to definitions of volunteerism, community service, field education, and service-learning.
3. Ask the students to begin to create their own “service timeline”

For example: starting from when you first did service, create a timeline that depicts the types of service you’ve done. It can include activities such as volunteering at the human society in high school, participating in clean-up projects, or other types of service-orientated classes you’ve taken in the past. Complete the timeline up until your current service-learning course.

4. Ask the students to try to categorize the different types of service they’ve done (volunteerism, community service, field education, or service-learning).
5. Have the students get into groups and share their timeline with a partner.
6. With their partner, have the students describe the types of service they did and why they chose that particular category.
7. Gather back into a circle and have the students share the following with the group:
 - a. How did you define volunteerism, community service, field education, and service-learning?
 - b. Was it difficult to categorize your particular service experiences?
 - c. What are the benefits/drawbacks of each form of service?
 - d. Why do you think service-learning is required at your University?
 - e. How do you think service-learning might benefit your experience in your course?